Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 1, and replace with the following:

Instant messaging is an online chat medium, allowing users to communicate with each other and collaborate in real time over a network data processing system. Instant messaging is commonly used over the Internet. Instant messaging applications monitor and report the status of users that have established each other as online contacts. Additionally, instant ~~messager~~ messenger users may find additional contacts through various mechanisms. For example, a user may find other users based on a search for users with similar interests, such as school, investing, cars, and movies. The status in messages are typically presented to the user in a window on the user's data processing system. Instant messaging applications also are often employed by users conducting business. By utilizing instant messaging, business users can view each other's availability and initiate a text conversation with colleagues or customers when a desired contact becomes available. Millions of users communicate using instant messaging systems every day. With instant messaging becoming an important part of both personal and business communications, functionality, and usability enhancement are important to the continued success of this type of communication tool.